2003-2004. For the year 2004-2005, 15.88 lakh MT of rice, 45.12 lakh MT of wheat under TPDS and 7.88 lakh MT of rice and 0.41 lakh MT of wheat was allocated to the State Government under various welfare schemes.

New sugar mills in Bihar

†2079. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal regarding setting up of five new sugar mills in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether sixteen old sugar mills which are closed in the State would be reactivated/revived or privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government do not set up sugar mills in any part of the Country. The sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.09.98. The entrepreneurs are free to set up sugar mills as per techno-economic viability of their project maintaining a distance of 15 KMs. from the existing sugar factories.

(c) It is responsibility of the entrepreneurs to take steps to reactivate/ revive or privatise the closed sugar mills. The sick mills belonging to private and public sectors and covered under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Such sugar mills are required to make reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) whenever their accumulated losses become equal to or more than the net worth. If the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by the BIFR provide for any relief/concession from this Ministry, the scheme is considered as per the existing guidelines.

Norms for food grain procurement and allocation

2080. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have notified new norms for food grain procurement;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to cut food grain allocation to States taking into account the recent average off-take;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is methodology proposed to be used by Government to allocate food grains to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Food Corporation of India and State Agencies procure foodgrains which conform to the prescribed specifications at the Minimum Support Price.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Loss due to procurements by the State Governments

†2081. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are purchasing paddy, rice and wheat directly from farmers and the States where the same are being purchased through the Food Corporation of India;

(b) the reasons for this variation;

(c) whether the State Governments are incurring losses due to such purchase by them;

(d) if so, the quantum of such losses incurred during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the reasons for such losses and the details of compensation paid to States for such losses, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.